

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 AID-20 NIC-01 DRC-01 /140 W

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R 091045Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5386

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 7199

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, AF, IR

SUBJ: POLITICAL PURGE IN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

REF: KABUL 7085

1. DIRECTOR SECOND POLITICAL DEPARTMENT HAKIM TOLD ADCM OCTOBER 6 THAT "REVOLUTIONARIES IN MFA" HAD NOW TAKEN OVER AND THAT ABOUT 20-25 MFA OFFICIALS WERE IN PROCESS BEING DISMISSED OR UNDER HOUSE ARREST. ONLY NAMES PROVIDED WERE AMBASSADORS PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED IN REFTEL AS BEING RETIRED, CHIEF PROTOCOL SAADULLAH GHAUSSI AND FORMER UNDEL MEMBER AND ACTING DIRECTOR POLAFF HABIBULLAH KARZAI. HAKIM WOULD NOT IDENTIFY ANY OTHERS IN SPITE SEVERAL ATTEMPTS BY ADCM OBTAIN FURTHER NAMES. ONLY NEW NAME IN ABOVE LIST IS KARZAI; AND WE HAD SUSPECTED HE WAS IN TROUBLE SINCE HE HAD MADE NO EFFORT CONTACT MEMBERS OF EMBASSY FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM NEW YORK SOME TEN DAYS AGO.

2. PAK COUNSELLOR BABAR SAYS KARZAI IS BEING FIRED AS RESULT HIS KEY ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH IRAN FOR HELMAND WATERS TREATY. DEPFONMIN WAHID ABDULLAH FIRST DENIED TO CHARGE THAT KARZAI'S OUSTER RESULTED FROM IRANIAN TREATY, BUT THEN ASKED BELLIGERENTLY "WHY ARE YOU AND IRANIANS SO INTERESTED IN KARZAI?" NOR WOULD HE REVEAL TO CHARGE REASON FOR ACTION AGAINST GHAUSSI, SAYING THAT HE WAS UNDER STRICT INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO DISCUSS GHAUSSI'S PROBLEM
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WITH ANY MEMBER OF DIP CORPS, ALL OF WHOM HAD BEEN ASKING.

3. GHAUSSI AND KARZAI WERE AMONG ABLEST OFFICERS AT UPPER LEVELS
IN AFGHAN DIP SERVICE AND THEIR LOSS WILL BE FELT. (THEY HAVE ALSO
BEEN EXTREMELY FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE WITH US OFFICIALS).
WHILE FULL DIMENSIONS OF "CHANGING OF THE GUARD" AT MFA NOT YET
CLEAR, SOME OF CHANGES ALREADY EVIDENT ARE PRODUCING A MORE
AGGRESSIVELY NATIONALIST ATMOSPHERE, PARTICULARLY TOWARD
PAKISTAN.
LEWIS

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